MINUTES

OF THE

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

MUD CREEK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

OAK GROVE CHURCH, JEFFERSON CO., ALA.,

September 17th, 18th, and 19th, 1887.

A complete roll of the Delegates appears in the Tabular Statement on the back of these Minutes. Absentees marked with a †.

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MINUTES.

FIRST DAY—OPENING SESSION.

OAK GROVE, ALA., September 17, 1887.

The Mud Creek Baptist Association met pursuant to adjournment, on Saturday, the 17th day of September, 1887, for the purpose of holding its Sixteenth Annual Session, at 11 o'clock A. M., with Oak Grove Church, Jefferson County, Ala. Hymn No. 80, in Psalmody, was sung, and prayer was offered by Elder James A. Markham.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Bro. P. A. Wilkey, from Acts, 10: 36, to a large and appreciative audience. Services were then closed, to meet at 2:30 o'clock.

The Association assembled at 2:30 o'clock, and was called to order by the Moderator. Hymn No. 543 was sung, and prayer was offered by Elder O. J. Waldrop, after which the former Moderator organized the body.

The body proceeded to business. As the roll of the several churches was called, the delegates came forward and voted for Moderator and Clerk, which resulted as follows: Elder A. White as Moderator and Thomas L. Burchfield as Clerk.

Appointed brother Samuel A. Parsons and Elder O. J. Waldrop to read the various letters presented from the different churches, which were read.

The Moderator appointed a Committee on Devotions of the following brethren: Brothers Vines, W. S. Gilbert, J. R. Reeves, together with the deacons of Oak Grove Church.

Call was made for corresponding brethren from other associations. Received Elder O. J. Waldrop from Canaan Association.

The Moderator then proceeded to appoint the following committees:

On Documents.—Brothers J. H. Batson, A. Gilbert, and L. A. Martin.
On Nominations.—Brothers M. M. Gwin, J. R. Reeves, and B. Roberts.
On Finance.—Brothers J. H. Knight, J J. Vance, and J. H. Snow.
On Home Missions.—Elders Wm. Hannah, J. N. McFalls,and J. Collier.
On Temperance.—Brothers J. W. Howton, R. Smith,and W. P. Satter.
On Sabbath Schools.—Brothers W. R. Patton,D. R. Davis,and J. Glaze.
On Educations.—Eld. J. A. Markham,bros.Pinkney,Waldrop,C.B. Gwin.
On Deceased Members.—Bros. J. R. Snow,M. M. Gwin,and J. F. Davis.

Returned Correspondence as follows:

To North River Association.—Bros. W. T. P. Vandiver,and W. H. Snow.
To Canaan Association.—Elds. J. N. McFalls, Jas. A. Markham and Brothers J. R. Reeves and J. C. Riley.
To Harmony Association.—Brothers Samuel A. Parsons, J. W. Howton, and J. M. Hyche.
To Tuscaloosa Association.—Elder B. S. Thompson.

Resolved, That this body meet at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning to hear lectures from Professors Robertson and I. W. McAdory.

Adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock Monday morning.

SUNDAY SESSION.

The congregation assembled in the house on Sunday morning at 9 o'clock by singing, after which Prof. Robertson proceeded to lecture on the very important subject of Sabbath Schools, which proved to be a perfect treat to all present. His remarks were certainly to the point, showing the great good derived from Sabbath Schools, which was highly appreciated by all present. This excellent and interesting address was followed by Prof. I. W. McAdory, which was equally rich and instructive with good thoughts and christian spirit.

After a few minutes intermission, the congregation re-assembled by singing hymn No. 543 in Psalmody.

The Missionary Sermon was then preached by brother Andy Batson, and concluded by Elder William Hannah, from 28 chapter and 20th verse of Matthew, which was very instructive and highly appreciated, after which a collection was taken up amounting to $21.30.

Dismissed until 4½ o'clock P. M.

The congregation again re-assembled at 4½ P. M., by singing. Preaching by Brother W. T. P. Vandiver, concluded by Elder B. S. Thompson. Prayer was offered, and the congregation dismissed.

MONDAY—MORNING SESSION.

The body was then called to order at 9 o'clock, according to adjournment, by the Moderator. The 41st Psalm was read. Hymn No. 490 of Psalmody was sung. Prayer then offered by the Moderator.

Brother J. H. Batson proceeded to read the Constitution, Rules of Decorum, and Abstract of Faith.

The following committees then reported as follows:

Report of Committee on Nominations:

We, your Committee on Nominations, beg leave to report, that we find a request from four churches, viz: Mud Creek, Prude's Creek, Liberty and Hopewell, asking for the next session of the body, and we recommend that the next Annual Session of the Mud Creek Baptist Association meet with Hopewell Church, Jefferson county, Ala., 32 miles west of Birmingham, Ala. Elder A. White to preach the Introductory Sermon, Brother J. Collier, Alternate. Elder J. N. McFalls to preach the Missionary Sermon at 11 o'clock Sunday, Elder J. I. Gilbert, Alternate.

M. M. Gwin, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools:

We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to report the following:—We find in the letters from our sister churches, to-wit: Smithville Church and Oak Grove Church have had Sabbath Schools for the past year, also Village Creek Church organized a Sabbath School in April last. The teachers of this church in the Sabbath Schools are brothers J. R. Winters and A. J. Nichols, which are in a flourishing condition, and will result in great good. We are sorry to see so little interest manifested by the various churches, but hope we will become aroused to the importance of this great work. We certainly believe that Sabbath Schools are a part of the worship of God, and earnestly urge all the brethren and churches to hold to this work, and prove their faith by their works.

W. P. Patton, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Home and Foreign Missions:

We, your Committee on Home and Foreign Missions, beg leave to report: Believing that many of our good brethren, for the want of infor-

mation (Scriptural) on this most important subject; we therefore recommend to your body, that you put in the field, in the bounds of Mud Creek Association, and adjacent bounds, two Itenerants, and that they be instructed to preach two sermons at each church on christian giving, or christian paying, from a business standpoint, giving an opportunity to all to contribute to Home and Foreign Mission, further that giving or withholding should not break fellowship. Leaving that to the withholder and his God. That which he purpose in his heart to do. Also to be instructed to organize Sabbath Schools in every church, and to keep an account in full of all their labors, and the report to be made at the next session of this body. We furthermore recommend that they enter the field at the opening of the spring, and organize Sabbath Schools, then cease their labors until the first of July, and again enter the field for the remainder of the associational year. We further recommend that brother Collier be put on the work, and that brother B. S. Thompson assist him all he can. WILLIAM M. HANNAH, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Deceased Members:

We, your Committee on deceased members, beg leave to report that we find since our last annual session the following deaths: S. A. Nickols, of Liberty church, Alphie Gilbert and Martha Gilbert, of Prude's Creek church, Sarah Parker, of Freewill, Sally Wilkey, of Rock Creek, and sisters Mary Wallace and Matilda Roberts, of Oak Grove church, all distinguished members of this association. We sincerely mourn their absence, but we do not mourn as those who have no hope, for our loss is their gain, therefore we are willing to submit to the will of God, but should admonish each other to run the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus as the author and finisher of our faith. We do truly sympathize with those bereaved, hoping ere long to meet where parting is no more.

JAMES M. SNOW, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Documents:

We, your Committee on Documents, beg leave to report: That we have carefully examined the letters from the several churches, and find a request from Hopewell, Liberty, Mud Creek and Prude's Creek churches, for the next session of the body to be held with them. Also a request from Prude's Creek church for the body to meet on Thursday, before the 3rd Sabbath in October, 1888. Also a collection taken up on Sabbath of $21.30, and $4 from Smithville church to be divided as follows: Elders H. G. Smith $3.35, and B. S. Thompson 65c. J. H. BATSON, Chm'n.

Report of Committee on Education:

We, your Committee on Education, beg leave to report: We believe the time has arriven, when we should use all the means we can command,

to cultivate our talents, educate our children, in order that we may compete with the emigration which bids fair to flood our progressive country.

JAMES A. MARKHAM, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Temperance:

We, your Committee on Temperance, beg leave to report as follows: That the several churches of this Association use all their influence against the great evil of intemperance, and withdraw from any brother who uses intoxicating liquors as a beverage. We furthermore recommend that the several churches of this Association use all their influence to stop the sale of intoxicating liquors, especially outside of incorporated cities or towns; we further recommend that the several churches of this Association search the Scriptures in regard to temperance, and carry out strict discipline according to the word of God.

J. W. HOWTON, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Itenerancy:

We, your Committee, beg leave to report that we will not appoint any Itenerants at present, and ask the churches to consider this matter, and if they want the same done, please inform us at the next session of this body, and if so, bring up the means to support the same.

M. M. GWIN, Chairman.

The regular order of business was dispensed with to read the letter from Davis's Creek church.

Adjourned one hour for dinner.

EVENING SESSION.

Met at 1 P. M. Hymn No. 490 in Psalmody was sung. Prayer offered by brother S. A. Parsons. Brother Curtis Howton was excused on account of sickness in his family.

RESOLVED, The money taken up on Sunday of $21.30, be equally divided between Elders B. S. Thompson, Wm. Hannah, A. White, J. A. Markham, J. I. Gilbert, and J. N. McFalls.

A collection was then taken up amounting to $3 for the purpose of buying a good substantial blank book for the clerk to record the proceedings of each annual session, if any of the amount was left the clerk should use for buying paper.

Report of the Committee on Finance:

We, your Committee on Finance beg leave to report: That we find amount sent for Minutes, $18.05; for Associational purposes, $11.65; for Indigent Members, $1.50.

J. H. KNIGHT, Chairman.

Treasurer's report read, received, and adopted. Report as follows:

Received of Finance Committee, - - -	$ 31 30
Collected on Sabbaths, - - - -	21 30
Collection for Associational Book, - - -	3 00

M. M. GWIN, Treasurer.

Appointed brother M. M. Gwin Treasurer for the next associational year.

Resolved, That the clerk have as many minutes printed as $18.05 will have published, with the Constitution, Rules of Decorum, and Abstract of Faith.

Resolved, That the clerk receive $10 for his services.

Resolved, That the clerk have $1.65 for mailing minutes.

Resolved, That this body tender their sincere thanks to the members of Oak Grove Church and vicinity, for kindness in entertaining our body while in session.

Resolved, That this body adjourn to meet with Hopewell Church, on Saturday before the 3rd Sabbath in October, 1888.

The delegates then gave the parting hand. Dismissed in order.

Thos. L. Burchfield, Clerk. A. White, Moderator.

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. This Association shall be known as the Mud Creek Baptist Association.

Art. 2. It shall be formed of delegate from all the churches which may connect themselves with this body.

Art. 3. Any church may be admitted into this body by general consent of the members present at any regular session.

Art. 4. Any church may withdraw from this body at her own discretion on proper application of dismission.

Art. 5. This body shall usurp no authority over the churches in our union, nor infringe on any of their internal rights, but merely be considered as an advisory council in all matters relative to their internal affairs.

Art. 6. The churches in the union shall transmit each annual session of the Association with a written communication specifying the names of their messengers and the state of their church since last session.

Art. 7. Every church in our union shall be entitled to five delegates. Any church failing to represent herself as above described, shall state her reasons at the next session.

Art. 8. Newly constituted churches shall be admitted into our union by messengers bearing petitionary letters. If upon due examination they be found orderly and orthodox, their reception shall be manifested by the Moderator giving the messengers the right hand of fellowship.

Art. 9. The Association when convening shall be governed by a regular and proper rule of decorum, which she is authorized to altar or amend according to her own views.

Art. 10. At every session of the Association a Modorator shall be chosen by, and from among the delegates present, whose duty it shall be to see that all the rules of decorum be strictly observed, and take the voice of the Association on all subjects legally introduced. A clerk shall be chosen in the same manner, whose duty shall be to make proper and correct minutes of the Association.

Art. 11. The Association shall have power to exclude from her union any church which may violate the Constitution or depart from the orthodox principles of the Gospel.

Art. 12. The Association shall furnish the churches with minutes according to the funds sent up for said purpose by the church each session.

Art. 13. Queries that immediately concern the union of the churches, or introduced by a poper motion of the body, may be taken up and decided by this body.

Art. 14. The Association shall have a Treasurer, whose duty it shall be to receive all moneys from the hands of the Finance Committee and pay it out at the order of the Association.

Art. 15. There shall be an Association book provided, in which the minutes of every annual session shall be recorded.

Art. 16. The Association shall not adjourn any session until it shall have finished all the business on hand, unless it be in extraordinary cases.

Art. 17. Minutes of the Association shall be read and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, if necessary, before the session rises.

Art. 18. Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any session when two-thirds of the members may deem it necessary.

RULES OF DECORUM.

Article 1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

Art. 2. The Moderator shall be deemed a judge of order, and shall have a right to call to order at any time, also, it shall be his duty to see the rules of Decorum are attended, and to take the opinion of the Association on all questions properly brought before that body.

Art. 3. Any member not satisfied with his decisions on any point of order may appeal to the Association on the same day that the decision is made, but at no other time.

Art. 4. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a true record of the transactions of the Association.

Art. 5. But one person shall speak at a time, and he shall rise to his feet and address the Moderator.

Art. 6. The Moderator when addressed for leave of speech shall signify the same by naming them or otherwise.

Art. 7. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject under consideration, or use words of personal reflection, or with a view of calling to order for some particular purpose, and any motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association unless withdrawn by him who made it.

Art. 8. Every case taken up by the Association after allowing time for debate, the Moderator shall put the question, and if necessary the sense of the body may be taken by rising to their feet.

Art. 9. When anything is taken up by the Association it shall first be decided upon before another is proposed.

Art. 10. No person shall depart from the services of the Association without leave of the same.

Art. 11. The appellation of Brother shall be used in our address to each other.

Art. 12. The names of the members shall be called as often as necessary.

Art. 13. No person shall be indulged in any practice that has a tendency to interrupt in any time of public speech, or other practices that would dishonor the Association.

Art. 14. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privileges of speech as others, provided he appoint some other member to take his seat while he is speaking, but shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided, then he shall give the casting vote.

Art. 15. No member of this body shall be permitted to speak more than twice on the same subject without first obtaining leave of the Association, unless to explain.

Art. 16. Any person breaking the Rules of Decorum shall be reproved, at the discretion of the Moderator, but only on the day the breach is made.

ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES.

1. We believe in one only true and living God, the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost, three in one.

2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the Word of God, and the only true rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of Original Sin.

4. We believe in man's inability to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by his own free will and holiness.

5. We believe in the doctrine of Election through Sanctification of the Spirit, and belief of the truth.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the merits of Jesus Christ.

7. We believe the Saints will persevere in grace and not finally fall away.

8. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and the true believers are the only proper subjects, and do conscientiously believe that the true mode of baptism is immersion.

9. We believe in the resurrection and general judgment.

10. We believe the joys of the righteous, and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

11. We believe that no minister has a right to the administration of the ordinances only such as have been called of God, and regularly baptized and approved by the church, and come under the imposition of hand by a presbytery.

12. We believe that none but believers have a right to the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	POST OFFICE.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Baptized.	Rec'd by Letter.	Dis. by Letter.	Expelled.	Restored.	Died.	Total Number.	Minute Fund.	Associat'l Fund
Antioch	J. F. Price	Hayes	B. Hyche, W. J. Burchfield,† H. P. Hudson,† W. Scales,† P. Hyche,†	9		4				50	1 00	50
Black Warrior	P. A. Wilkey	Hayes	J.I.Gilbert,A.H.Johnson,A.Gilbert,J.H.Miner,† R.D.Naremmore,†W.N.Gilbert†		4					25	50	50
Big Creek			Not Represented.									
Blue Creek	P. A. Norwood	McCalla	L. A. Martin.	6	3	6	2	1	1	30		
Davis' Creek	WilliamHannah	Hayes	W.Hannah,† T.J.Jones, G.T.Franklin,† D.Sandlin,† E. Kennedy,† J.C.Cargile,†		1	1				30	1 00	55
Friendship	J. F. Price	Hayes	V. J. Clark,† J. Hog,† J. Hosmer,† E. Rackler,† H. Hosmer,† Jacob Hog,†	3	3		3			36	1 00	
Freewill	E. H. Tuggle	Porter	T. P. Vandiver, J. Mauldin,† J. A Butler, B. Quin,†		1		2		1	20	1 00	55
Hopewell	A. White	Toadvine	A. White, J. M. Snow, D. R. Davis, J. T. Davis, J. Sanford,	1		2	1			46	1 25	65
Henry Smith			Not Represented.									
Liberty	A. White	Short Creek	W. P. Salter, J. J. Vance, E. B. Vines,† R. F. Vines, Daniel Vines,		1	2	2		1	72	75	75
Mud Creek	J. I Gilbert	Rasburg	J. A. Markham, D. W. Howton, F. S. Riley, J. C. Howton, J. Hammonds,†			3				70	1 50	45
New Providence	J. I. Gilbert	Hayes	B.S.Thompson, C.B.Gwin, S.M.Hosmer, J.B.Burton, W.R.Patton, B.B.Givens,†	3	2	2				37	50	1 00
Oak Grove	A. White	Ezra	J. R. Batson, M. M. Gwin, E. D. Hyche, J. W. Howton, J. N. McFalls,	1		1			2	73	1 15	1 00
Prude's Creek	P. A. Wilkey	Hayes	T. L. Burchfield, J. M. Gwin, J. M. Gilbert, E. C. Beck,† W. J. Gilbert,	8	1	3		1	2	82	1 00	95
Pleasant Ridge	WilliamHannah	Hayes	J. Wallace,† S. Wallace,† A. J. Horn,† C. C. Hamner,† I. Boatner,	16	1					34	1 00	65
Sardis	G. B. Vines	Jonesboro	J. M. Kent,† Geo. Cox, J Gilbert, J. Parsons,† J. Price,†	5						30	50	1 00
Smithville	O. J. Waldrop	Toadvine	J. H. Snow, C. F. Allman, R. L. Smith, B. Roberts, J. Smith,									
Rock Creek	J. N. McFalls	Toadvine	J.H.Waldrop, E. Duncan, J.R. Reeves, J. J. Waldrop, J. T. Glaze, J. C. Riley,		3				1	43	1 40	1 00
Village Creek	J. N. McFalls		J.Hicks, E. Hicks, J.Collier, A.J. Nickols,† J. Boyd, J. Woodward,† N.A.Pool	3	5	1				39	1 00	50
Mount Ida	A. White	Wilmington	J. H. Knight, S. Robertson,† W. J. Perry,† G. Miller, A.P.Waldrop,J.T.Perry,†	3	7					31	1 00	60